

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Connect America Fund)	WC Docket No. 10-90
)	
Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime)	CC Docket No. 01-92
)	

ORDER

Adopted: November 9, 2017

Released: November 9, 2017

Revised Reply Comment Date: November 20, 2017

By the Associate Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau:

1. In this order, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) grants in part the motion of USTelecom¹ for an extension of time to file reply comments in the above captioned proceeding in response to a public notice we released on September 8, 2017 inviting interested parties to update the record on issues raised by the Commission in the *2011 ICC Transformation FNPRM* regarding (1) the network edge for traffic that interconnects with the Public Switched Telephone Network, (2) tandem switching and transport, and (3) transit (the non-access traffic functional equivalent of tandem switching and transport) (the *September Public Notice*).² As discussed more fully below, we find that good cause exists to grant a 7-day extension of time for all comment filers to file comments in response to the *September Public Notice*.

2. Comments and reply comments were set at 30 and 45 days, respectively, after publication of the summary of the *September Public Notice* in the Federal Register. Publication of this summary in the Federal Register occurred on September 26, 2017.³ Accordingly, comments were filed on October 26, 2017 and reply comments were set for November 13, 2017.

3. USTelecom requests that the parties be granted a 17-day extension for reply comments, until November 30, 2017.⁴ US Telecom states that the issues in this proceeding are highly complex and

¹ See Motion for Extension of Time to File Reply Comments, WC Docket No. 10-90, CC Docket No. 01-92 (filed Nov. 9, 2017) (USTelecom Motion).

² *Parties Asked to Refresh the Record on Intercarrier Compensation Reform Related to the Network Edge, Tandem Switching and Transport, and Transit*, WC Docket No. 10-90; CC Docket No. 01-92, Public Notice, DA 17-863 (WCB Sept. 8, 2017), 2017 WL 3953397; see *Connect America Fund*; *A National Broadband Plan for Our Future*; *Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers*; *High-Cost Universal Service Support*; *Developing an Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime*; *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*; *Lifeline and Link-Up*; *Universal Service Reform – Mobility Fund*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109; GN Docket No. 09-51; CC Docket Nos. 01-92 and 96-45; WT Docket No. 10-208, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 26 FCC Rcd 17663, 18111-13 and 18117, paras. 1297, 1306-13, and 1320-21 (2011) (*2011 ICC Transformation FNPRM*).

³ See 82 FR 44754-55 (Sept. 26, 2017).

⁴ USTelecom Motion at 1.

that numerous parties have filed comments with very divergent views on the proper path forward.⁵ Under the current schedule, parties have 15 days to digest, consider and draft written replies to these numerous and complex proposals, which USTelecom claims is not sufficient time to provide complete and thoughtful replies.⁶ USTelecom further argues that this modest extension of time will not cause undue delay or prejudice, and will ensure a more robust record in this proceeding.⁷

4. Section 1.46 of the Commission's rules provides that "[i]t is the policy of the Commission that extensions of time shall not be routinely granted."⁸ However, given the complexities of this proceeding, we agree that a modest time extension will allow parties to provide us with more robust comments that will facilitate the compilation of a complete record in this proceeding, without causing undue delay to the Commission's consideration of these issues. In light of the time parties have been provided to work on reply comments, we conclude that a 7-day extension should be sufficient for parties to draft complete and robust comments.

5. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to sections 4(i), 4(j), 5, and 303(r) of the Communications Act, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 154(j), 155, and 303(r), and sections 0.91, 0.291, 1.46, and 1.415 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, 1.46, and 1.415, that the USTelecom Motion filed on November 9, 2017 IS GRANTED IN PART to the extent described herein, and the deadline for filing reply comments IS November 20, 2017.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Elizabeth A. Hone
Associate Chief
Wireline Competition Bureau

⁵ *Id.* at 2.

⁶ *Id.* at 2-3.

⁷ *Id.* at 3-4.

⁸ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46.